

The Minuteman

Volume 21 Number 5

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The President's Corner... continued

us. We would hate to be relegated to fast food emporiums and allnight convenience stores as our only source of sustenance....

New Trustee for 449.925

Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, has relinquished trusteeship of 449.925 and 224.40; his new business has taken up all available time. We all owe Scott for the time and effort he put into building repeaters, establishing linking systems and keeping everything on the air. Time permitting, we hope he will still be able to help us out in a bind.

Stepping into the breach - someone neglected to tell him never to volunteer for anything - is Walter Ching, N1HBR. He is the current Vice President of the MMRA; and since VP's seldom have much to do (sarcasm intended), Walter has agreed to take on the job of Trustee. There is no doubt that he will manage the central node of our network well.

If you are interested in becoming a repeater Trustee, and are in the Quincy area, let me know. It would be nice to have a list of volunteers for the Trusteeship of 224.40 to pick from, rather than having to seek someone out. You do not have to be a technical guru (although that helps), just someone who will carefully oversee the operation of a repeater, managing the human and physical resources it takes to keep one on the air.

Items of Interest.... continued

WARC 92 Makes No Changes in 40 Meters

The WARC 92 Conference has reached a decision on what will be done about the 40 Meter band -- nothing. Nothing will be moved, but we can take solace in the fact that on April 1, 2007, the lower edge of the 7 Mhz broadcast band will be 7300 Khz.

So if you can just wait awhile, 40 will be quiet. The original concept was to move the 40 meter band lower to get away from the broadcast operations that clobber the band every evening at or just after sunset. Well, that is not going to happen...so build arrays with their backs to Europe, but you don't have to build them all that well...they only have to last 14 years.

The FCC has started rule making on business communications; RM-7895 has been assigned to the ARRL proposal for re-wording the section in the rules concerning prohibited communications. So look for the opportunity to register your comments to the commission; it should be forthcoming soon.

The ARRL has suggested that Novice exams be brought into the VE program. Originally, it was believed that Novice exams would overburden the VE Program; when novice privileges were expanded, 2 General class licensees were required to supervise the Novice tests.

MMRA Raffle Results: We had a winner, Bill Dunn of Quincy won the grand prize. Look for tickets for the next raffle in the mail! We made nearly \$1500...so buy more tickets!!! You too can win an open account at HRO!

Don't forget, we are selling tickets at HRO, so tell people you know about it. Get the word around, **SELL TICKETS!**

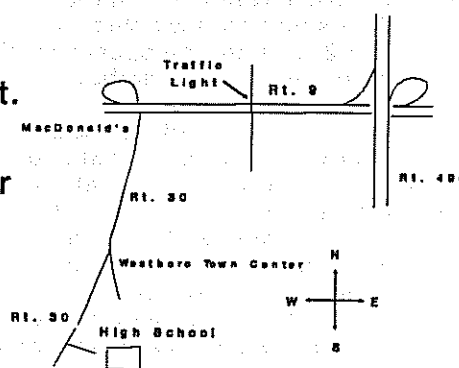
Amateur Radio Flea Market

Minuteman Repeater Association

September 12, 1992

Location:

From Rt 495 take Rt 9 west to Rt 30 West.
Take Rt 30 West into Westboro Center.
High School is on left about 1/4 mile after
traffic circle in center of town. Rt 30
goes straight ahead from town center



Vendors

Buyers

Doors open at: 8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Close at 2:00 PM

Admission: \$2.00 for buyers

	Tables:	Floor space 3' x 6'
If paid for by Sept. 5:	\$10.00	\$5.00
At the door:	\$15.00	\$8.00

One free
Admission with
each table or space

Send Table Order to:

MMRA

P.O. Box 2282

Lexington, MA 02173

For Info call:

N1BHI, Andy Morrison

508-481-3878

N1HBR, Walt Ching

508-481-0994

Talkin - 146.61, 449.925, 223.94

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MMRA Field Day.....Slygo Hill, Marlboro, June 27-28

For the first time in years, the MMRA is going to have a Field Day. Plans are coming together: we have a site; for the VHF/UHF hounds, Slygo Hill in Marlboro will be ideal. In case you don't recognize the place, it's where our 449.925 repeater is located - one of the higher points in the city of Marlboro.

The most important thing to remember about Field Day is that it should be fun - yes, Field Day is a contest, but more importantly, it's a learning experience and a social event.

There may be a few new Hams reading this who are not really familiar with Field Day. This is one of the more significant events on the amateur radio calendar; it is an exercise of our ability to conquer adversity and put stations on the air from field locations, capable of effective emergency communications. It proves our ability to provide a communications capability that can effectively replace common carrier and/or government communications that have been disabled by some catastrophic event. Remember Hurricane Hugo?

We plan a 2 or 3 station operation. One HF station will use a 160/80/40 meter sloper hung off the "Rocket-ship tank"; another HF station will use a tribander on a short mast - up there we won't need a lot of height.

A third station could operate a mix of VHF/UHF, packet - whatever those who take responsibility for its setup want to do. At the very least, a 2 meter all-mode station would provide a good source of operating fun and points for the contest.

The HF stations will operate both CW and phone. Which will be determined by the operating preference of whoever takes the control point chair. In an ideal Field Day operation, each station has a pool of 16 operators. That allows for each operator/logger team to get four hours of operating time. That doesn't kill you... If there are only 8 operators in the pool, then each team of 2 people has to spend 8 hours operating. That isn't too bad, if it's spread over the whole weekend. Also, a 2 person team can divide up its operating time between logging and yakking.

If stations use computerized logging, then the amount of people needed is cut nearly in half.

For three stations, we would need a pool of 48 people to keep all of them on the air for the full 24 hours of Field Day. The more "Gunga Din" style operators we have, the fewer are needed. It isn't unusual for a few people to hang in at the mike or key for 8 hours or more.

Obviously, not even one station just appears in the middle of a field...it takes a bunch of people to set it up. Someone has to bring some kind of tent; people have to plan and construct an antenna. Someone else brings a rig and its appurtenances, you set up a power source, set-up, hook-up and you are on the air.

So depending on how many people come out of the woodwork to participate, we will put up from one to three stations. A small group can have as much fun as a big one...in future years, if our Field Day effort grows, we'll look for a bigger site. Some of the larger ham radio organizations put up an impressive operation. One year I remember working one station on CW that had "26A" in its exchange. That means that they had 26 transmitters on the air, all on emergency power!

We hope to make this a success, and an ongoing tradition for the MMRA.

MMRA Hints And Kinks...by Andrea Presciado, WS1C

The following submission was made by Russ Hulbert, KA1VMQ. He sent along two very interesting hints. I would like to thank him very much for his contribution, especially since he was the only one who has done so as of this writing. Please read these through, because I think that many of you might get some ideas that you can put to good use! Please forward your own ideas to the MMRA Newsletter so that others may benefit from your experience.

Problem: When using my ICOM 229A transceiver in a mobile mode with an auxiliary speaker plugged into the jack at the rear of the unit, the speaker would cut out frequently. After some investigation I determined that the problem was caused by a loose fit between the male speaker plug and the female jack in the transceiver. The jack is a 1/8 (.125) inch jack. Using a micrometer I measured the shank of the male plug and found it to be .110, or .015 inch smaller than the female jack. The plug furnished by ICOM measured .111, and the radio shack plug I had on hand was .110 inch also. Talking with other hams on the band, I found that three others

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MMRA Information

Repeaters:

Marlboro:	146.61	N1BHI/R	Patch via 449.925	FTL
Marlboro:	449.925	N1HBR/R	Patch	FTL
Weston:	146.82	KA1AL/R	Patch	PTL
Weston:	224.70	N1HBR/R	Patch via 449.925	FTL
Quincy:	146.67	KA1HKP/R	Patch	FTL
Quincy:	224.40	KA1CLX/R	Patch	FTL
Stoneham:	146.715	N1DQZ/R	Patch	No Link
Hopkinton:	223.94	N1BHI/R	Patch via 449.925	PTL
Marlboro:	145.03	KA10UI-3	Netrom Node	

Contacts:

President: A. Morrison, N1BHI (508) - 481 - 3878 Vice President: W. Ching (508) 481 - 0994

MMRA Hints and Kinks continued....

had experienced the same difficulty (2 with Kenwoods) . .

Solution: I purchased a Switchcraft model 780 plug that measured .125 from Abbott Electronics, Inc., 155 New Boston Street, Woburn, MA (935-2040) and have not had a problem since. This makes a snug, but not tight, fit. They also sell a wire cable that will exactly fit the plug. The cable assembly is No. E118830(UL) type CM22, AWG shielded or AWM 2092. The shield and the ground are not necessary, and I did not use them.

Tip #2

I have found it difficult and expensive to find braided copper wire for grounding purposes. Such wire usually runs about \$1.00 per foot, even in the smaller widths such as 1/4 or 5/16 inch. Radio shack sells a double conductor clear coated braided copper made for speaker applications that costs \$.99 per foot. Each braid is about 1/4 or 1/5 inch wide. By slicing the wire down the center of the clear insulation, it is easy to obtain two lengths of braid, thus cutting the cost per foot in half. There is a pronounced groove in the center of the insulation, making the slicing operation easy.

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The Official Newsletter of the Minuteman Repeater Association

Ham Radio Outlet

Featuring All Major Makes
of Amateur Radio Gear
At Fair Prices

Lots of Stuff on Display
Where You Can Sit Down and
Take a Close Look and Listen

**MMRA Raffle Tickets available at HRO in Salem....
Take a shot at a \$1000 Gift Certificate at HRO!**

**Mail/Return Address:
MMRA, P.O. Box 2282
Lexington, MA 02173**



The MINUTEMAN

Official Newsletter of the Minuteman Repeater Association

The President's Corner

This month's meeting is our annual election meeting. Most of the officers and board members have agreed to stay on; we will have two new board members, replacing Barry Brozenske, K3BUZ, and Grace Maglin, N1GZQ, who had to return to Texas. Mike Ryan, N1KRJ, is on the slate to fill out the remainder of Grace's term, and Tom Qualtieri, WB1GMA, is up for Barry's slot.

Mike Ryan, a relative newcomer to the ranks of amateur radio, has become very active; he is a control operator for 146.61 and 449.925. He's almost always listening to the machines at night; that he has nocturnal tendencies is due in part to his job...he is on the Marlboro Police Department, working the graveyard shift. Tom Qualtieri may be known to many of you as the guy who fixed your Heath gear when you were stumped. An excellent technician, Tom is going to be working on the 146.82 Weston system. We are fortunate that he is willing to take a position on the board of directors.

The full slate is to the right; come to the meeting Monday, May 11, if for no other reason than to show your appreciation for the people who volunteer their time to keep the MMRA going.

I'd like to take a few lines to give recognition to Dave Metz for his long term support of the MMRA; he has been more than generous, providing antennas for our meeting raffles.

Field Day approaches...look on page 2 for some details about our plans so far. We are planning a smallish affair; 2 or 3 stations. But to do even that, we need some people who want to have some fun to come out with us. There is some planning yet to be done, so those of you who have done Field Day in the past -- come on and do it again. Those who have never done it -- you are in for a treat. Probably the most significant need is embodied in that old saying that "...an army moves on its stomach." If there is anyone out there who is a good camp cook and wants to show off his or her talent, join

Items of Interest.....

MMRA Annual Election Slate

Officers:

President: A. Morrison, N1BHI
Vice President: W. Ching, N1HBR
Treasurer: Ian MacClennon, AF1R
Secretary: F. Morrison, KB1FZ
Clerk: A. Williams, KA6BUZ

Board Of Directors:

Al Kunian, KA1AL
Tom Qualtieri, WB1GMA
Mike Ryan, N1KRJ

Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, one year remaining in current term of office.

May 11, 1992 Meeting at
Weston -- Campion Center

Agenda:

Elections
Field Day Plans
General Business
Raffle Ticket Sales

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